

## Lore of the Corps

### Addendum to “It’s a Family Affair”: A History of Fathers, Daughters and Sons, Brothers, and Grandfathers and Grandsons in the Corps

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In October 2014, *The Army Lawyer* contained a Lore of the Corps called “*It’s a Family Affair*”: *A History of Fathers, Daughters and Sons, Brothers, Grandfathers and Grandsons in the Corps*. This addendum adds more details about family relationships in our Corps that were omitted in the original article.

*Father and son.* Captain (CPT) Samuel J. Smith Sr. and Colonel (COL) Samuel J. Smith, Jr. In 1961, the senior Smith was an Infantry first lieutenant in the 3d Armored Division in Germany. He was passionate about baseball and was the coach of the Combat Command C “Cougars” and the assistant coach of the 3d Armored Division “Spearheads” baseball teams. In the early 1960s, baseball (and other sports) played by Army teams both in the United States and overseas were a major morale and recreational outlet for thousands of soldiers. First Lieutenant Smith (1LT) was proud of his time as a coach for the 3d Armored team, especially as the division commander, Major General Creighton Abrams,<sup>1</sup> was an avid baseball fan and took a personal interest in young Sam Smith. But 1LT Smith wanted to go to law school and, when the Army announced a new Excess Leave Program<sup>2</sup> for officers who wanted to be uniformed lawyers, Smith applied and was accepted. He was one of the first individuals to participate in the Excess Leave Program, and he exchanged his crossed rifles for the crossed sword-and-quill insignia when he started law school at Washington and Lee in September 1961. When Smith later resigned his commission and left active duty, he was a captain in the Corps.



Then First Lieutenant Samuel J. Smith, Sr. (center), Coach, Combat Command C Cougars Baseball Team, 3d Armored Division, Germany, 1959.

His son, COL Sam Smith, was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at James Madison University in 1984, and received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from George Washington University in 1987. He entered the Corps the next year and has served in a variety of positions, including Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Today, he is a professor at National Defense University.<sup>3</sup>

*Brothers.* Captain Robert L. Davenport, Jr., and CPT Darius K. A. Davenport. Both Robert and Darius graduated from Norfolk State University and were commissioned through the ROTC program. Both then received their J.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Robert Davenport then served an active duty tour in the Army General Counsel Office (as part of the honors program). He left that office in 2006, having transitioned to a civilian attorney position. Today, he is the District Counsel for the Norfolk District Army Corps of Engineers.

Darius Davenport graduated from the 158th Judge Advocate Basic Course in 2002 and subsequently served at XVIII Airborne Corps and at TRADOC until leaving active duty in 2006. Today, he is in private practice in Norfolk and

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<sup>1</sup> General Creighton W. Abrams (1914-1974) was one of the most well-known officers of his generation. A distinguished combat commander in World War II (General George S. Patton considered Abrams to be his best tank commander), Abrams finished his career as Army Chief of Staff (1972-1974). His untimely death from cancer while still on active duty cut short a life of devoted service to our Army and our nation. For an excellent biography of Abrams, see LEWIS SORLEY, *THUNDERBOLT* (1992).

<sup>2</sup> Prior to the establishment of a Funded Legal Education Program in the 1974, active duty officers “were authorized to go into an extended leave status without pay and attend a civilian law school of their choice, but at their personal expense.” More than a few judge advocates who came into the Corps in the 1960s did so through the Excess Leave Program; in 1965, for example, there were 144 officers in the program. JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL’S CORPS, *THE ARMY LAWYER* 238 (1975).

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<sup>3</sup> Email from COL Samuel J. Smith, Jr. (Feb. 15, 2015, 11:23 AM)(on file with author).

also works as the Director, Career and Alumni Services, Regent University Law School.<sup>4</sup>

Since the older Davenport never wore the crossed quill-and-sword insignia, one might argue that the Davenports do not qualify for inclusion in this “It’s a Family Affair” addendum. Your Regimental Historian, however, believes that their service deserves mention.



Captain Robert L. Davenport (left) and Captain Darius K.A. Davenport (right), with their sister, Staff Sergeant Grooms Joy Davenport Grooms, 2004. Staff Sergeant Grooms served in Operation Desert Storm and in Operation Iraqi Freedom before retiring from the Army Reserve.

*Uncle and nephew.* Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Kevin Flanagan and CPT James M. Flanagan. Kevin Flanagan graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1971 and was accepted into the Excess Leave Program two years later. After the creation of the Funded Legal Education Program (FLEP) in 1974, then CPT Flanagan was in the first group of officers accepted into the FLEP for the last two years of law school. After obtaining his J.D. from the University of Oklahoma and graduating from the 81st Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course in 1976, Flanagan served in a variety of assignments and locations, including: 3rd Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany; Litigation Division, Office of The Judge Advocate General (OTJAG); and Procurement Fraud Division, OTJAG. After retiring in 1991, LTC Flanagan continued to serve as a civilian attorney and was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1999 as the Deputy General Counsel (Inspector General), Department of Defense. He served as General Counsel, Defense Threat Reduction Agency from 2004 to 2014, when he retired.

His nephew, CPT James M. Flanagan, graduated from the University of Georgia in 2005 and Catholic University’s law school in 2008. He then accepted a direct commission as a first lieutenant in the Corps and, after completing the 178th

Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course in 2009, was assigned to 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York.<sup>5</sup>

Your Regimental Historian welcomes additional information about judge advocate family connections in the Corps---past and future.

*More historical information can be found at*

The Judge Advocate General’s Corps  
Regimental History Website

<https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/8525736A005BE1BE>

*Dedicated to the brave men and women who have served  
our Corps with honor, dedication, and distinction.*

<sup>4</sup> Email from Robert L. Davenport, Jr., (Mar. 27, 2015, 5:32 PM)(on file with author).

<sup>5</sup> THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL’S SCHOOL, 178TH JUDGE ADVOCATE OFFICER BASIC COURSE, 2009; Email from James M. Flanagan ( Feb. 17, 2015, 12:05 PM)(on file with author).